

Frequently Asked Questions NT Windows

Q: What is vinyl (PVC)?

A: It is one of thousands of plastics in use today. PVC's technical name is poly vinyl chloride. It is unique among plastics in that it is composed of nearly 60% chloride that stems from rock salt (sodium chloride) and about 40% polymers stemming from natural gas and petrochemicals.

Q: How durable are vinyl windows? Are they strong?

A: Vinyl windows are very durable. There are tens of millions of vinyl windows installed in homes and commercial buildings, across the country and around the world. In the U.S., some vinyl windows have been installed as long as 25 years and are still working well. Many designs of today have superior wind load ratings to wood and metal windows.

Q: What kind of maintenance do vinyl windows require?

A: Vinyl windows are virtually maintenance free, requiring no finishing upon installation and no periodic painting or sealing like wood or metal windows. They also can't rot, rust, pit or corrode like wood or metal products and are unaffected by moisture, salt air, pollution and airborne chemicals. If they ever require cleaning, simply wiping with a damp cloth is sufficient to return them to their "Factory Fresh" condition.

Q: What can I use if I really need to clean my vinyl windows?

A: Usually a few drops of a mild liquid cleaner in a bucket of water is sufficient to clean any dirt or grime that may have accumulated on the window. If you have more stubborn build-up, the following household cleaners work well, based on a study done by the SPI (Society of the Plastics Industry); Formula 409, Ajax Liquid Cleaner, Murphy's Oil Soap, Lysol Cleaner, Soft Scrub, or vinegar and water. The following cleaners or types of cleaners should not be used on vinyl; Clorox, Pine Power, Ivory, Grease Relief, Tide Detergent, nail polish remover (acetone).

Q: Can I paint my vinyl windows?

A: There are paints specifically made for use on vinyl. Consult your local paint supplier for the proper paint and surface preparation. It is important that you follow the paint manufacturers instructions.

Q: Why are vinyl frames hollow? Why aren't they solid?

A: Vinyl frames are designed with multiple chambers in the frame to provide thermal efficiency, rigidity and strength without excessive weight. A solid frame would be excessively heavy, difficult to work with, expensive, and would, actually, not perform as well as the multi-chambered designs in today's window and door products.

Q: Will vinyl windows melt in the hot sun?

A: No. Vinyl windows perform well in the desert climates of the Southwestern U.S. where daytime temperatures can reach 125°F (and above) and surfaces in direct sun can be heated above 165°F (the temperature at which vinyl begins to soften). It's the multi-chambered design of vinyl products that ensures they'll handle even those excessive levels of heat. Vinyl is an excellent insulator. It does not conduct heat readily like aluminum and the hollow chambers in a vinyl frame reduce conduction even further. So while the outside surface of a vinyl window or doorframe may get quite hot in direct sun, the interior walls will experience limited heat buildup.

A: Many of today's vinyl window and door products feature fusion welded corner construction. Quite

